

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT & REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

I. EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT:

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jack P. Friedman (Reg. No. 44, 688) on 02/09/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a physical document, said method comprising:

creating a record in a selections table stored in a user device, said creating the record comprising entering into the record: a document number that identifies both the physical document and an electronic document that is an electronic copy of the physical document, a page number that identifies a page of the physical document and a corresponding page of the electronic document, and a network address of a server that stores the electronic document;

receiving, by the user device, an identification of where a selected region within the page of the physical document is located within the page, wherein the identification identifies the coordinates of the vertices of a polygon drawn around the selected region, and wherein said receiving the identification comprises receiving the identification by the user device from a transparent Electro-Luminescent Digitizing Tablet (ELDT) while the transparent ELDT is aligned over the page of the physical document and has sensed the identification from the polygon drawn over the transparent ELDT and around the selected region; and

inserting the received identification into the record of the selections table, and sending, by the user device to a user workstation, selected data from the record of the selections table stored in the user device, wherein the selected data comprises the document number that identifies both the physical document and the electronic document that is an electronic copy of the physical document, the page number that

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identifies the page of the physical document and the corresponding page of the electronic document, and the network address of the server that stores the electronic document.

20-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the electronic document is an exact replica of the physical document.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the user device is a stand-alone handheld computer device.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 19, wherein the method further comprises:

said user workstation receiving the selected data sent by the user device;

sending, from the user workstation across a network to the server at the network address, a request for the page of the electronic document, wherein the request specifies the document number and the page number; and

receiving, by the user workstation from the server, the requested page of the electronic document.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 19, wherein the request does not include any text or graphics comprised by the physical document other than the document number and the page number.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 19, wherein the method further comprises transmitting, to a destination document, a copy of a region on the received page of the electronic document corresponding to the selected region on the physical document.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said transmitting to the destination document comprises:

marking, by a plug-in program resident on the user workstation, the selected region on the received page of the electronic document; and
copying the marked region into a destination document.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said copying the marked region into the destination document comprises:

copying the marked region to a clipboard of an operating system in the user workstation; and
pasting the marked region on the clipboard into the destination document.

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30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network, wherein the network address is an Uniform Resource locator (URL), wherein the server is a Web server, and wherein the electronic copy is a HyperText Markup Language (HTML) document.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium, said storage medium storing instructions for performing ~~the a~~ method of claim 19 for processing a physical document when said instructions are executed on ~~the a~~ user device, said method comprising:

creating a record in a selections table stored in the user device, said creating the record comprising entering into the record: a document number that identifies both the physical document and an electronic document that is an electronic copy of the physical document, a page number that identifies a page of the physical document and a corresponding page of the electronic document, and a network address of a server that stores the electronic document;

receiving, by the user device, an identification of where a selected region within the page of the physical document is located within the page, wherein the identification identifies the coordinates of the vertices of a polygon drawn around the selected region, and wherein said receiving the identification comprises receiving the identification by the user device from a transparent Electro-Luminescent Digitizing Tablet (ELDT) while the transparent ELDT is aligned over the page of the physical document and has sensed the identification from the polygon drawn over the transparent ELDT and around the

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selected region;

inserting the received identification into the record of the selections table, and
sending, by the user device to a user workstation, selected data from the record
of the selections table stored in the user device, wherein the selected data comprises the
document number that identifies both the physical document and the electronic
document that is an electronic copy of the physical document, the page number that
identifies the page of the physical document and the corresponding page of the
electronic document, and the network address of the server that stores the electronic
document.

32-40. (Canceled)

41-49. (Canceled)

50. (New) The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the user device is a stand-alone handheld computer device.

II. REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE:

Claims 19, 22, 23, 25-31, and 50 are allowed.

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The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Interpreting the claims in light of the specification, Examiner finds the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

The prior art does not expressly teach or render obvious the invention as recited in independent Claims 19 and 31.

The features as recited in independent Claims 19 and 31 *“receiving, by the user device, an identification of where a selected region within the page of the physical document is located within the page, wherein the identification identifies the coordinates of the vertices of a polygon drawn around the selected region, and wherein said receiving the identification comprises receiving the identification by the user device from a transparent Electro-Luminescent Digitizing Tablet while the transparent ELDT is aligned over the page of the physical document and has sensed the identification from the polygon drawn over the transparent ELDT and around the selected region, and sending, by the user device to a user workstation, selected data from the record of the selections table stored in the user device, wherein the selected data comprises the document number that identifies both the physical document and the electronic document that is an electronic copy of the physical document, the page number that identifies the page of the physical document and the corresponding page of the electronic document, and the network address of the server that stores the electronic*

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document” when taken in the context of the Claims as a whole, were not uncovered in the prior art teachings.

The Examiner asserts that the claims overcome the prior art of record when the limitations are read in combination with the respective claimed limitations in their entirety.

Dependent claims are allowed as they depend upon allowable independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Contact information

- III. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272- 4093. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am – 30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached at (571) 272-4137.

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The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Maikhanh Nguyen/

Examiner, Art Unit 2176

/Laurie Ries/
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11 February 2010